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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 62

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/67 of 15 December 1994.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995 (see A/C.1/50/PV.3-11). Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on the items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.13-17). Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13-17, 20 and 21 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.18-29).

4. In connection with item 62, the First Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security (A/50/409).

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II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/50/L.48

5. At the 16th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of India, on behalf of Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Nepal, Nigeria and Sri Lanka introduced a draft resolution entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" (A/C.1/50/L.48), which was later also sponsored by Bangladesh, Cuba, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

6. At its 24th meeting on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.48 by a recorded vote of 98 to 6, with 51 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Stressing the interests of the international community in the subject and the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on the security environment and on the process of arms limitation and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfer of high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes is important for the economic and social development of States,

Recalling that the Final Declaration of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 18 to 20 October 1995, noted that restrictions being placed on access to technology through the imposition of non-transparent ad hoc export control regimes with exclusive membership tended to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Emphasizing that the internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. Affirms that scientific and technological achievements should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. Urges Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of high technology with military applications;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to develop a database of concerned research institutions and experts with a view to promoting transparency and international cooperation in the applications of the scientific and

technological developments for pursuing disarmament objectives such as disposal of weapons, conversion and verification, among others;

5. Encourages the United Nations to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and assessment;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session an item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

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Agenda item 63

THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/68 of 15 December 1994.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995. Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on the items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November. Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13 to 17, 20 and 21 November.

4. There were no documents submitted under item 63 to be considered by the Committee.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/50/L.13

5. At the 15th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" (A/C.1/50/L.13), which was later also sponsored by Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Honduras, Kazakstan, New Zealand, Nicaragua and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

6. On 10 November, Cuba, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Pakistan submitted amendments (A/C.1/50/L.53) to draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.13 by which:

(a) The second preambular paragraph, which read:

"Recognizing the importance of continued multilateral dialogue on means of promoting the transfer of technology for peaceful purposes while ensuring that such technology is not diverted to non-peaceful purposes"

would be replaced by:

"Recognizing the importance of continued multilateral dialogue on internationally agreed means of ensuring transfer of technology for peaceful purposes while avoiding diversion of such technology to non-peaceful purposes";

(b) Operative paragraph 1 (b), which read:

"(b) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfer of high technology with military applications"

would be replaced by:

"(b) Exploring ways and means of developing multilaterally negotiated, universally accepted and non-discriminatory agreements on transfers of high technology with military applications".

7. At the 24th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the sponsors, informed the Committee that they would not press for a vote on the amendments contained in document A/C.1/50/L.53.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.13, announced the deletion of the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.13, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 148 to none, with 9 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications

and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

1. Invites Member States to enhance bilateral and multilateral dialogue on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, with a view to:

(a) Ensuring implementation of relevant commitments already undertaken under international legal instruments;

(b) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfers of high technology with military applications;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

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Agenda item 64

AMENDMENT OF THE TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE AND UNDER WATER

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/69 of 15 December 1994.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995. Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on the items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November. Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13 to 17, 20 and 21 November.

4. In connection with item 64, the First Committee had before it a letter dated 26 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/317-S/1995/627).

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II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/50/L.32

5. At the 15th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water" (A/C.1/50/L.32), which was later also sponsored by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Peru.

6. At its 18th meeting on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.32 by a recorded vote of 95 to 4, with 44 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/28 of 6 December 1991, in which it noted the convening of the Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water from 7 to 18 January 1991, 48/69 of 16 December 1993, in which it noted the convening of a special meeting of the States parties to that Treaty on 10 August 1993, and 49/69 of 15 December 1994, in which it noted with satisfaction the commencement of multilateral negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty in the Conference on Disarmament on 1 February 1994,

Reiterating its conviction that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is the highest-priority measure for the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and for the achievement of the objective of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the central role of the United Nations in the field of nuclear disarmament and in particular in the cessation of all nuclear-test explosions, as well as the persistent efforts of non-governmental organizations in the achievement of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Convinced that the Amendment Conference will facilitate the attainment of the objectives set forth in the Treaty and thus serve to strengthen it,

Recalling its recommendation that arrangements be made to ensure that intensive efforts continue, under the auspices of the Amendment Conference, until a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is achieved, and its call that all parties participate in, and contribute effectively to the success of, the Amendment Conference,

1. Urges all States that have not already done so to adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ at the earliest possible date;

2. Urges all States parties to the Treaty to contribute to the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty as soon as possible and no later than 1996 and to its expeditious entry into force;

3. Requests the President of the Amendment Conference to conduct consultations to those ends;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water".

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.